Fencing of the Indo-pak Border in Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir

*475. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status in respect of Phase II and Phase III of the schemes for fencing/flood lighting of the Jaisalmer/Barmer Sectors of Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan and in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the achievement regarding the fencing/ flood lighting scheduled for completion by 31st December, 1995 and 30th June, 1996; and

(c) the actual expenduture incurred on the work undertaken uptill now and the status of implementation of Phase IV of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The progress of fencing and flood lighting works in Rajasthan and Jammu Sectors and expenditure incurred thereon is as under:

Rajasthan Sector:

Phase-II (Barmer Sector : 146 Kms.):

The work has already been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 50.61 crores has been incurred upto July, 1996.

Phase-III (Barmer & Jaisalmer Sectors: 120 Kms):

Nearly 80% of fencing work and 95% of flood lighting work has already been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 32.64 crores has been incurred upto July, 1996. The target date for completion of the work was 31st December, 1996 which was preponed to 30th June, 1996. It, however, appears that the entire work will be completed by 31st December, 1996 only.

Phase-IV (Jaisalmer Sector: 145 Kms.):

Nearly 15% of the work has been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 8.37 crores has been incurred upto July, 1996. The target date for completion of this work is 31st December, 1997.

Jammu Sector

(Fencing in 180 Kms. & Flood Lighting in 195.8 Kms.)

The work was taken up in 1995 but the same had to be suspended due to firing from Pakistan side. The question of restarting the work is under consideration. An expenditure. of Rs. 17.72 crores has been incurred upto July, 1996.

Appalling Condition of Ports

*476. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of some of Major Ports is appalling;

(b) whether it is a fact that a major portion of business is lost to Sri Lanka on account of this; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the condition of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Most of the major ports are operating beyond their rated capacities and these rest at very near their capacities.

(b) The Shipping lines find it viable to use Colombo as a transhipment port for containers.

(c) Outlays aggregating to Rs. 2858.53 crores have been allocated in the Annual Plans 1992-93 to 1996-97 for major ports for the replacement of the obsolete assets, modernisation and creation of additional port facilities. Port Sector has been thrown open for private participation with a view to bringing in additional resources and modern technology.

De-silting of the River Ganga

*477. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps Government have taken so far for desilting of the river Ganga to save Calcutta Port?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): With the commissioning of the Farakka Barrage, the sand bars of the upper reaches of the Hooghly between Calcutta and Diamond harbour have stabilised to a considerable extent, resulting in less requirement of maintenance dredging. The Calcutta Port is now concentrating on maintenance of depths